

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1 through 8 cancelled

- 9. (previously presented) A blister packaging machine for inserting products into cup-shaped depressions in a bottom sheet and for sealing a cover sheet onto the bottom sheet to form a blister band containing the products, the machine comprising:**

a stationary filling station for inserting the products into the cup-shaped depressions of the bottom sheet;
a sealing station disposed downstream of said filling station to seal the cover sheet onto the bottom sheet for forming the blister band containing the products;
a cyclically operated first drive device for discontinuously transporting the bottom sheet and the cover sheet through said sealing station; and
a second drive device disposed between said filling station and said sealing station for discontinuously transporting the bottom sheet, wherein drive actions of said first and said second drive devices superpose such that the bottom sheet is transported through said filling station at constant speed.

- 10. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 9, wherein said second drive device comprises a deflecting device which can be adjusted between a basic position and a deflected position to exert a tensile force on the bottom sheet in said filling station.**
- 11. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 10, wherein said deflecting device returns from said deflected position back into said basic position.**

12. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 10, wherein said deflecting device is adjusted substantially perpendicularly to a main transport direction of the bottom sheet.
13. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 10, wherein said deflecting device comprises a shaft which is adjusted by a motor, with several mutually separated deflecting discs disposed on said shaft.
14. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 13, wherein a mutual separation between said deflecting discs along said shaft can be changed.
15. (previously presented) The blister packaging machine of claim 13, wherein said deflecting discs are rotatably disposed on said shaft.
16. (currently amended) The blister packaging machine of claim 10, wherein said deflecting device comprises several guide elements ~~on~~ which structured to support an open side of the cup-shaped depressions in the bottom sheet is supported.